



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/016,325

12/10/2001

Bryan C. Dunkeld

KOP 2001-1

4756

23694 7590 07/21/2009
J. NICHOLAS GROSS, ATTORNEY
2030 ADDISON ST.
SUITE 610
BERKELEY, CA 94704

EXAMINER

AUGUSTIN, EVENS J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/21/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/016,325 | Applicant(s) DUNKELD ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Evens J. Augustin | Art Unit 3621 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/17/09.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-37, 55 and 59-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. This is in response to an amendment filed on April 17th, 2009. Claims 1-80 are pending.
Claims 22-37, 55 and 59-80 have been examined.

Response to Arguments

2. The United States Patent and Trademark Office has fully considered the applicant's arguments filed on April 17th, 2009, but has not found those arguments to be persuasive.

Argument 1: Prior Art's unique ID does not include customer information.

Response: With regard to construction and structure of a unique ID, they are based on the owner or architect of the system. There numerous possibilities for constructing a unique, but none patentably distinct from each other. The essential aspect is the fact that the ID is unique, whether it is based on content or combination of customer information or another combination of content and hardware serial number. Therefore, it would obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of applicant invention to construct a system in which a unique ID includes customer data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Regarding claims 22, 24, 25, 27, 35, and 37, the phrase "**and/or**" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). The primary purpose of this requirement of definiteness of claim language is to ensure that the scope of the claims is clear so the public is informed

of the boundaries of what constitutes infringement of the patent. In this case, the language of “and/or” does not make clear whether the succeeding language is included, as part of the limitation or it is in the alternative. This language does not inform the public of the boundaries of what constitutes infringement of the patent. For example in claim 22, it not clear whether the second computer is included in the limitation or is an alternative to the first computer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levy (U.S. 20020052885), in view of itself.
7. As per claims 22-37, 55 and 59-80, Levy discloses an invention that comprises of the following:
- A. ("a first computer coupled to the network, said first computer storing a digital asset which includes both digital content and a first unique identifier associated with a first instantiation of said digital asset") – A first computer (par. 77, Fig. 1, item 104) storing digital content or asset (par. 77), being part of a P2P network (72, 17);
- B. ("a second computer coupled to the network") -- A second computer (par. 77, Fig. 1, item 106) storing digital content or asset (par. 77), being part of a P2P network (72, 17);

- C. ("a first software routine executing on said first computer and/or said second computer, said first software routine being adapted to coordinate transfer of said digital asset to said second computer;") – a search program running on peer computers (par. 31, 74, 77). Peer computers also run a file sharing application, managing/coordinating file transfer (par. 84-99);
- D. ("said second computer operate to transfer said digital asset in a peer to peer manner across the Internet") – Peer computers being part of a P2P network (72, 17), using the internet (par. 23);
- E. With regard to the aspect of ("wherein after said transfer, a second transfer of said digital asset can occur from either said first computer and/or said second computer, said second transfer further using a third instantiation of said digital asset and a third unique identifier") –multiple transfer or instantiation of the same can take place across a P2P network (par. 72);
- F. ("second computer is a portable electronics device, including a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and/or a telephone") – Portable device (par. 12);
- G. ("said digital content includes an MP3 based audio file") – MP3 files (par. 65, 66, 77);
- H. ("unique identifier is based on combining information from any one or more of the following: a first id for said first computer, a second id for said second computer, an asset id for said digital asset, a customer id, a randomly generated number and/or a time of said transfer") -- Unique ID based on content (par. 34, 36);
- I. ("a catalog of available digital assets is maintained at said first computer.") – Clients maintain a database of file available for download (par. 77);

- J. ("first software routine is also configured to execute an authorization routine, said authorization routine being adapted to secure agreement from a user of said second computer to access terms associated with said digital asset") – a user interface to the client that informs the user of file transfer rights, and gives the user the opportunity to get rights that he or she desires (Par.81,83);
- K. ("setup routine being adapted to set up a transaction account with a digital asset management system separate from said first computer and said second computer, said transaction account including an identifier for a user of said second computer, identifiers for any transfers performed by said user, and billing information associated with said transfers") – The system allows the user to set up subscription accounts (43, 83).
Therefore, it is adapted to set up payment account;
- L. ("Track all transfers of digital assets from said first computer.") – Tracking of content (par. 32, 128);
- M. ("receives credits from said digital asset management system for all authorized transfers made of digital assets")—Means to account for all file transfers, and be used to properly pay or give credit to the rights holders (par. 33, 43);
- N. ("second computer polls other computers coupled to the network to determine an optimal transfer source for said digital asset") – Requesting or polling other computers (par. 007, 30, 31 117);
- O. ("content includes content for a newspaper, a book, a magazine, and/or a periodical") – Content can be MP3 files, software, documents, images, video, etc.(par. 77) --
newspaper, a book, a magazine, and/or a periodical fall under the document category;

- P. ("second instantiation of said digital asset is created in accordance with distribution rules in place at the time of said transfer, which distribution rules can be different from distribution rules in place at the time of creation of said first instantiation of said digital asset ") – checking the rights/rules to transfer or copy or download or instantiate (81);
- Q. ("second computer is integrated within a fixed personal entertainment system, including a gambling machine, a digital jukebox, and/or a passenger seat ") -- Output device containing personal digital jukeboxes such a media player, such as Windows Media Player, Real Player from Real Networks, WinAmp (par. 121);
- R. Levy did not explicitly describe an invention in which the unique ID includes customer data/information. With regard to construction and structure of a unique ID, they are based on the owner or architect of the system. There numerous possibilities for constructing a unique, but none patentably distinct from each other. The essential aspect is the fact that the ID is unique, whether it is based on content or combination of customer information or another combination of content and hardware serial number. Therefore, it would obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of applicant invention to construct a system in which a unique ID includes customer data. The motivation to construct different unique ID is based on business/software needs.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Any new ground(s) of rejection is due to the applicant's amendment. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3621

9. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EVENS J. AUGUSTIN whose telephone number is 571-272-6860. The examiner can normally be reached on 10am - 6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571)272-6779.

/Evens J. Augustin/
Evens J. Augustin
July 21, 2009
Art Unit 3621